

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) An artificial joint for use as an endoprosthesis for a human knee joint, said artificial joint comprising a first joint compartment formed by a first condyle and a first socket and a second joint compartment formed by a second condyle and a second socket, wherein two contact surfaces of the respective joint compartments are offset in a main functional plane, and wherein the contact surfaces of the two joint compartments are formed in each case by a point contact and are arranged at an angle ~~sloped~~ as a function of the knee joint flexion angle such that surface normals of the contact surfaces have a single common point of intersection at each flexion angle.

2. (original) An artificial joint according to claim 1, wherein the contact surfaces have a slope which ascends to a center of the joint.

3. (original) An artificial joint according to claim 1, wherein the contact surfaces on both sides of a convex curvature dividing the joint socket of the first and second joint compartments are arranged at the junction to a concave shape.

4. (original) An artificial joint according to claim 1, wherein the surface normals of the two contact surfaces form an angle of at most 40° relative to the effective direction of a resultant joint force loading the joint.

5. (original) An artificial joint according to claim 1, wherein the contact surfaces each have a different slope angle.